























































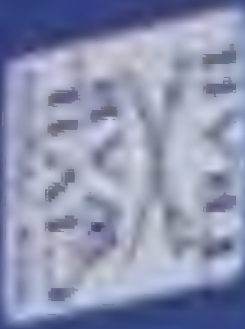








# THE BATTLE AT DROOP MOUNTAIN



NOVEMBER 10, 1863

Nearly two months after West Virginia was admitted into the Union, the Confederate army of Brigadier General John Echols still occupied the prosperous Greenbrier Valley region of the new state. From its headquarters in Lewisburg, his army was the constant menace of the Virginia Tennessee Railroad, an important Confederate supply line in southwestern Virginia.

On August 26 and 27, 1863, the Confederate army had successfully repulsed an attack at White Sulphur Springs by the Federal Army of Brigadier General William W. Averell. In early November, Echols learned that General Averell had left his headquarters in Beverly, West Virginia, and was again moving south toward the railroad. Confederate inspectors in Pocahontas County tried to slow the advance. General Echols marched his army north, all through the night, to Droop Mountain to reinforce them.

The reinforcements arrived just in time, for General Averell began his attack early. Throughout the morning, Echols' outnumbered Confederate army held the high ground and blocked the way with artillery, but as the afternoon was overhauled by the crushing advance of Federal infantry on his left flank. Following the collapse of his lines, General Echols retreated into Virginia with the remnants of his command. Federal troops occupied Lewisburg November 7, 1863, but being bothered by prisoners and captured livestock, General Echols returned to his headquarters in Beverly, waiting until early December to lead a ultimately successful attack on the vital railroad. Operations in the Shenandoah the spring of 1864 drove remaining Confederate troops out of West Virginia, thus new state security under the control of the Federal government for the remainder

an 400 cavalries, (1 10 Union and approximately 275 Confederate) the Battle at was one of the last significant Civil War battles in West Virginia.



Map Legend



General John Echols

